

Witness Interrogation Affidavit

May 18th, 1946

At Khabarovsk

Captain of Justice Sokolov interrogated the following person as witness, warning that the said witness is responsible under Article 95 of the Criminal Code of the R.S.F.S.R. for any false statement made.

1. Name: Japanese Major MATSUURA, Kusuo
2. Year of birth: 1917
3. Official position: Chief of Cipher Section, General Headquarters of the Kwantung Army.
4. Membership in political parties: None.
5. Present address: The town of Khabarovsk.

A certificate is appended in which the witness and the interpreter acknowledge that they are responsible for any false testimony or interpretation made.

Q. What languages have you learned?

A. Japanese and some Chinese.

Q. In what language do you wish to state?

A. I wish to state in Japanese.

Q. State about your official positions in Japanese Army.

A. In 1935, I entered the Military Academy in Tokyo, and graduated at it in the beginning of 1939. I was appointed Sub-lieutenant immediately on graduation. I was assigned to the First Company, Reservist Corps, the 23rd Infantry Regiment, Miyakonojo City. In August, 1939, I was appointed instructor of the Cadets' Company (Training Company) of the same Corps. In March, 1940, I was promoted to Lieutenant, assigned to the 23rd Infantry Regiment, the Sixth Division, the Eleventh Army of the Middle China Expeditionary Forces, and appointed section commander of the First Machine Gun Company of the same Regiment. From August 15, 1940, to October 15 of the same year, I was given a lesson in cryptography at the General Headquarters of the China Expeditionary Forces at Nanking, and after completing it, I returned to the previous position in the previous Regiment. On November 15, 1940, I was despatched to the Army Communications School as a student in cryptography. After having graduated at that school on

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January 15, 1941, I returned to the previous Regiment and was appointed cipher officer in the Headquarters of the 23rd Infantry Regiment.

In March, 1941, I was appointed Chief of the Cipher Section in the Headquarters of the Mongolia Stationary Army. The Mongolia Stationary Army Headquarters were stationed in the town of Kalgan, Inner Mongolia.

I served in the above mentioned place until August, 1943.

In March, 1942, I was promoted to the rank of Captain.

In August, 1943, I was assigned to the Cipher Section of the Kwantung Army Headquarters.

In August, 1944, I was promoted to the rank of Major and ordered Chief of the Cipher Section. I served in this capacity until the surrender of the Japanese Army on August 19, 1945.

Q. In what sort of work did you engage as Chief of the Cipher Section?

A. I engaged in teaching cryptography to the units of the Kwantung Army as well as in the practical ciphering in the Kwantung Army Headquarters. I took in charge all the cipher communications concerning military operations and various informations which were exchanged between the Kwantung Army and the Army General Staff Office, the War Ministry, the Headquarters of the Tokyo Defence Army and other Defence Armies in homeland, the China Expeditionary Forces and the South Sea Army. In the service, I was placed under the command of Lieut.-Col. Morio TOMURA, senior signal staff-officer, who himself was placed under the command of Colonel MATSUMURA Tomokatsu, Chief of the First Section. Colonel MATSUMURA was afterwards appointed Vice-Chief of Staff and concurrently Chief of the First Section.

When I was the Chief of the Cipher Section in the Mongolia Stationary Army prior to August 1943, I took charge of almost the same work as I did as the Chief of the Cipher Section of the Kwantung Army General Headquarters.

Q. What do you know about the Japanese Army's plan regarding the preparations for offensive against the Soviet Union?

A. Towards the end of June, 1941, when I was perusing the orders concerning the cipher work at the Staff Department of the Mongolia Stationary Army, I found among many orders, an order of the Commander-in-Chief of the North China Area Army, who was the direct superior commander of the Mongolia Stationary Army. It was an order issued in June, 1941, but I do not remember its order number. I remember in it was written the order to the Commander of the Mongolia Army that the preparations for military actions should be completed as soon as possible according to the Appendix, "the Principles of the preparations for military actions". I think it was a document ordering the commencement of putting into practice the war preparation plan against the Soviet Union.

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Q. For what reason do you witness think that the said order had some connection with the Japanese Army's preparations in Inner Mongolia for offensive against the Soviet Union?

A. I was led to the conclusion by the following facts:
After the beginning of the German-Soviet War, about June 23-24, 1941, Gen. OKAMURA, Commander of the North China Area Army, called by cipher telegram Lieut.-Gen. AMAKASU, Commander of the Mongolia Stationary Army, and Col. KABURAGI Masataka, senior staff officer in charge of military operations, to the North China Area Army Headquarters in Peking. The above two left for Peking about June 24, 1941.

On returning from Peking, about July 5, 1941, Lieut.-Gen. AMAKASU Tataro called all commanders of the forces under his command for an assembly. It appeared that directives concerning preparations of war against the Soviet Union were given at this meeting. Regarding the military operations against the Soviet Union, Japanese troops in Inner Mongolia had to act in concert with the Kwantung Army. I was told about this matter by Lieut.-Col. ITSHIKI Masao, senior signal staff officer, who had attended the assembly.

Lieut.-Col. Masao ITSHIKI asked me whether the code book to be used after the outbreak of the war against Soviet and to be distributed by the Imperial Headquarters had been fully prepared.

I reported that the said code-book had been fully prepared and well learned.

It was prearranged that, after the opening of hostilities, the additive tables and the emergency indicator tables to be used in combination with the army code-book No. 3 should be changed according to the instructions of the Army General Staff Office.

These additive tables and indicator tables had been already received from the Army General Staff Office.

At the same time, the Commander of the 26th Division who had been in charge of suppressing Chinese guerilla army received orders to prepare for military operations against Outer Mongolia in the Teisuan-taihu desert district.

Early in Sept., 1941, Lieut.-Col. KOTANI, General Staff Officer arrived by airplane from the Kwantung Army Headquarters.

As regards his arrival, a cipher telegram had been previously received informing that Staff-Officer KOTANI would be dispatched from the Kwantung Army General Headquarters for liaison purpose. He had an interview with the commander of the Mongolia Stationary Army. I do not know what had passed between them at the interview.

Since June, 1941, the discharge from military service upon expiration of the term was suspended, and the increase of troops was enforced by newly conscripted strength. For example, over 5,000 appear to have arrived between June and Dec., 1941.

By 1942, the Army forces had been increased to about 70,000 from about 40,000.

About Aug., 1942, the 3rd Tank Division was organized, with the cavalry group as a cadre unit.

I cannot help but say that the problem of an offensive against the Soviet Far East was openly discussed by Japanese officers. During a conversation with Captain NANI Ichiro, an officer attached to the Army Intelligence Section, he stated that the offensive of the Japanese army against Outer Mongolia was to be directed against Ulanbator-Zabaikalye, the object which lay in making military transportation to the Far East difficult by cutting off the Trans-Siberian Railroad.

In May, 1943, five expeditionary parties were organized, each party being composed of about one company. Among them, three parties were dispatched from the 26th Division, and other two from the 2nd Independent Mixed Brigade. Major AOSHIMA Ryoichiro, senior army intelligence staff-officer commanded the parties. The object of the expeditionary parties lay in the actual exploration of the Feisuantai desert district.

After about one month's exploration, it was found out that the Feisuantai desert district was passable by tanks, and that water could be obtained by a small digging. I heard this from Captain Tsuboi, company commander of the 2nd Independent Mixed Brigade, who had joined the expeditionary parties. In the beginning of August, 1943, I was transferred to the General Headquarters of the Kwantung Army.

Q. What do you know about the plan of operations of the Kwantung Army General Headquarters against the Soviet Union?

A. On August 5, 1943, I arrived at the Kwantung Army General Headquarters. I immediately reported my arrival to Major KOBAYASHI, Chief of the Cipher Section, and after having received directions for an officer attached to the Cipher Section, I asked him the explanation of organization and general conditions of the Kwantung Army. Because these were essential problems for fulfilment of my duties.

Major KOBAYASHI explained by means of a map which was hanged on the wall of the officers' room, and stated that there had been in the Kwantung Army an offensive plan of operations against the Soviet Union called "the Kan-Toku-En/ Kwantung Army Special Manoeuvre 1941. According to the said "Kan-Toku-En" plan, two area armies had been newly organized under the command of the Kwantung Army.

The 1st Area Army consisted of the 2nd, 3rd, 5th and the 20th Armies, and its headquarters were stationed at Mutanchiang. The object of the Army lay in the hostile operations against the Red Army in the occupation of the Soviet Maritime Province.

The 2nd Area Army consisted of the 4th and the 6th Armies, and its headquarters were stationed at Chichihaerh. The object of the Army lay in the defensive operations towards the west, with the object of covering the offensive of the 1st Area Army.

According to this plan of operations, large-scale manoeuvres were put into practice in Manchuria by the Kwantung Army since August, 1941. It was so also with the Korea Army in Korea. It can be said that these manoeuvres meant the completion of preparations for the offensive of the Kwantung Army against Soviet.

The "Kan-Toku-En" plan was effective during 1942 and 1943.

During this period, the military strength of the Kwantung Army was ever increased by the supplementary forces conscripted in Japan proper and Manchuria.

Ex-soldier government officials and officials of the special companies of importance in national defence were subject to special education and training while they were off duty.

In December 1943 I attended the assembly of officers attached to cipher sections held at the Army General Staff Office in Tokyo, in order to receive directives concerning the compilation of the code-book for the year 1944. During a conversation with Captain HATTORI, who had been in the service of the Cipher Section of the Kwantung Army General Headquarters in 1941, and was then an officer attached to the Cipher Section of the Army General Staff, he told me that the offensive plan of operations, for the year 1941, of the Kwantung Army against Soviet had been made with the secret designation "Ken-Toku-En".

According to the above-mentioned plan, two stages were pre-arranged in the military action against Soviet. In the first stage, the 1st Area Army was to occupy the Soviet Maritime Province; and in the second stage, it was previously arranged that the military strength of the 1st Area Army, which would have finished the object of its operations in the first stage, should be transferred for the purpose of increasing the military strength of the 2nd Area Army, with the object of developing the offensive operations against the Soviet Zabaikalsky district. At the same time, it was pre-arranged, too, that the Mongolia Stationary Army should begin the advance into the Zabaikal district through the Republic of Outer Mongolia.

Q. What do you know, besides what you have already stated, about the documents concerning cipher business which were intended for use after the commencement of advance of the Japanese Army into the Soviet territory?

A. According to the instructions of the Japanese Imperial Headquarters, the Cipher Section of the Kwantung Army General Headquarters completed the compilation of an appendix dictionary to be used in combination with the Army code-book No. 3, which was then used.

In this appendix dictionary, the names of the inhabited places in the Soviet Maritime Province and the Zabaikal Province were contained in form of cipher. That cipher form was four figure type. For instance, Vladivostok, Voroshilov, Grodekovo, Sovgavani, Khabarovsk, in the Soviet Maritime Province; Chita, Borzya, Blagoveshchenski in the Zabaikal Province, together with other towns and villages were recorded in the document.

The appendix dictionaries were about 100 pages each, published as separate volumes and distributed to the headquarters of divisions, armies and area armies to be used in the occupation of Soviet territories. The like appendix dictionaries were also made by the Mongolia Stationary Headquarters, which contained the place names of the Republic of Outer Mongolia and the Zabaikal Province. Each one copy was sent to the Imperial Headquarters in Tokyo for reference and has been kept there from 1941 to the time of the surrender of the Japanese Army.

Q. What do you know about the time of the opening of hostilities by the Japanese Army against Soviet?

A. I do not know precisely about the time of the opening of hostilities against Soviet, but judging from the progress of preparations made by the Kwantung Army and the Mongolia Stationary Army according to the "Kan-Toku-Eu" plan, it can be concluded that the preparations for the surprise attack had been completed by the end of 1941.

In Aug. 1943, Lieut.-Col. TOMURA, Morio, Senior staff liaison officer of the Kwantung Army Headquarters warned Maj. KUBAYASHI and myself that preparations must be made so that we might change the ciphers speedily when military operations against the Soviet Union were opened.

Lieut.-Col. TOMURA told me that, according to the directives of the Imperial Headquarters, the Kwantung Army would open surprise operations against the Red Army so as to overwhelm it by taking the initiative against its superior force.

When I asked Lieut.-Col. TOMURA about the time of advance into Soviet, he replied he did not know.

It was rumoured at that time among the young officers of the General Headquarters of the Kwantung Army that the opening of war against the Soviet Union would be about the beginning of winter of 1943. For example, Captain Tadao NAKAJIMA, attached to the Intelligence Section of the Second Department, drew this inference from the fact that, in winter, rivers would be frozen over and military movement would be facilitated.

Q. What sort of spiritual education were the Japanese troops and people given regarding the offensive against Soviet?

A. The Japanese public propaganda organs acted so that they might impress deeply on the mind of the people, as early as from the age of school pupils, that the Soviet Union was the perpetual enemy against Japan and that there was a constant danger for Japan of being attacked by Soviet. They further propagated the inevitability of the war against Soviet under the conception that it was a matter affecting the destinies of the nation, as the problem of national defence or national existence for Japan, whether she could occupy Saghalien and the Maritime Province, which were at present possessed by the Soviet Union and which were so near to Japan and accordingly would become the base of military offensive against Japan.

The like propaganda was made through newspapers, magazines and radio broadcastings.

It was at the time of the conclusion of the Anti-Comintern Pact and the Triple Alliance between Japan, Germany and Italy when the anti-Soviet propaganda was specially strengthened.

At the time of the German advance into the Soviet Union, all Japanese newspapers reported the situation of war favorable to Germany and foretold the victory won by Germany in the near future. As for the official propaganda for the Manchurian occupation, they expounded that Manchukuo was the child of Japan, that the country was necessary for the Japanese people who were the parents of Manchukuo, and that the Soviet Union was a perpetual menace to the security of Manchuria.

According to the order of Major-General TAKAHASHI, Chief of Staff of the Mongolia Stationary Army, Major AOSHIMA, senior staff-officer in charge of intelligence, gave lectures on current problems to officers, at the dining room, almost every day at the beginning of the German-Soviet War. In these lectures, the Major sometimes referred, concerning the inevitability of the War against Soviet, to matters of Anti-Soviet nature. For example, he stated his opinion that the proper time for opening the offensive against Soviet was the period from July to December, 1941, in view of the reduction of military forces of the Soviet Army in the Far East on account of the outburst of the German-Soviet War.

Q. What units were belonging to the Mongolia Stationary Army? And give the names of the commanders of these units.

A. The Mongolia Stationary Army was composed of the 26th Division, (The Division Commander was Lieut.-Gen. Kaneshiro SHIBAYAMA), a Cavalry Group consisted of three regiments, (The Group Commander was Lieut.-Gen. Masao BABA. This Group was reorganized in August, 1942, to the 3rd Tank Division, Lieut.-Gen. Issaku NISHIHARA being appointed by the Emperor as the Division Commander), the 2nd Independent Mixed Brigade (the Brigade Commander was Major-Gen. Goro MANO), the 56th Anti-aircraft Gunnery Regiment, the 23rd Automobile Regiment, and the 11th Telegraph Regiment. (I do not remember the regiment commanders' names).

The Commander-in-Chief of the Army was Lieut.-Gen. Jutoro AMAKASU in 1941, Lieut.-Gen. Ichiro SHICHIDA in 1942, Lieut.-Gen. Yoshio KOZUKI in 1943. The Chief of Staff of the Army was Major-Gen. Mosuke TAKAHASHI in 1941, Major-Gen. Toyojiro INAMURA in 1942, Major-Gen. Masao YANO in 1943. The Senior Staff-officer in charge of military operations was Col. Masataka KAEURAGI in 1941, Col. Tomomichi YAZATO in 1942 and 1943. The Senior Staff-officer in charge of intelligence was Major Ryoichiro AOSHIMA from 1941 to August 1942, Major Masujiro NAKANISHI from August 1942.

I hereby testify that the above statement was made by myself and that it was true.

Witness	Japanese Major	Kusuo MATSUURA
Interrogator	Officer of Justice	Captain Sokolov
Interpreter		Tsvilov
Private Stenographer		Chomofeev

According to the order of Major-General TAKAHASHI, Chief of Staff of the Mongolia Stationary Army, Major AOSHIMA, senior staff-officer in charge of intelligence, gave lectures on current problems to officers, at the dining room, almost every day at the beginning of the German-Soviet War. In these lectures, the Major sometimes referred, concerning the inevitability of the War against Soviet, to matters of Anti-Soviet nature. For example, he stated his opinion that the proper time for opening the offensive against Soviet was the period from July to December, 1941, in view of the reduction of military forces of the Soviet Army in the Far East on account of the outburst of the German-Soviet War.

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Doc. No. 2153

C E R T I F I C A T E

AKHABROVSK

March 26, 1946

I, undersigned Major MATSOUDA, Kusuo pledge that being a witness in the case of the main war criminals I shall testify truly and correctly.

I am warned of the responsibility I bear for giving false testimony provided for in article 95 of the Criminal Code of the RSFSR.

This certificate is submitted to the Military interrogator Captain SOKOLOV, Sergei Pavlovich.

/s/ MATSOUDA, Kusuo

The certificate is submitted to: the Military Interrogator, Captain SOKOLOV.

/s/ SOKOLOV.

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION OF THE ABOVE DOCUMENT:

I, V. A. KAPLAN, hereby certify that I am thoroughly conversant with the Russian and English languages; and the above is a correct and true translation of the indicated document.

/s/ V.A. KAPLAN